



Council News

January 1999 Council

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SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS — WE'RE NOW AN ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

NIAID *Council News* is going out of print as we move to an electronic format. A new monthly publication will deliver more frequent updates on key policy and procedural changes at NIH and NIAID.

You can receive the email newsletter through a list serve that will deliver brief synopses of key articles, linking to the Web for more information. Grantees whose email addresses are listed in the NIH database will automatically be included. All other readers must send us their email addresses.

To register, use the sign-up icon on the main page of the *Council News* Extramural Information Center Web site, <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/>. We expect to have this functioning by the beginning of April.

Any questions, thoughts, concerns? Send an email message to Maya Hadar, managing editor, NIAID *Council News*, at mh31y@nih.gov.

Readers who do not have email or Internet access can receive a printout of the full Internet newsletter in the mail. To request this service, please send a note to:

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As a transition to an electronic newsletter, we are mailing this last issue in the new format, providing short descriptions of articles with

links to full articles online. Obviously, linking to the Web site will be smoother with the fully electronic newsletter.

Key Articles Inside

New Autoimmunity Initiatives,
NIAID Cancels PAs, New AREA
Guidelines

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No NIH Funds for Some Stem
Cell Research, What's Different
About Modular Grants, New
Terms of Award for Clinical
Grants, New Policy on Release
of Pathogen Sequencing Data

2

Training Stipends Rise, Special
Receipt Date for T32s, NIH
Ethics Training Initiatives

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New Tetramer Facility Online

3

Feature article

Understanding Percentiles,
Paylines, and Success Rates

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INITIATIVES & funding

The full text for articles in the Initiatives and Funding section is at <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/nl0199/page1.htm>.

LOOK OUT FOR NEW AUTOIMMUNITY INITIATIVES

With new money from Congress targeted for autoimmunity, NIH-wide initiatives are online. Ten new initiatives are being added to four others NIAID published last spring and summer soliciting a mix of grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and centers.

NIAID REVAMPS AREA PROGRAM

Are you a faculty member in a school with less than \$2 million in NIH support? New guidelines for Academic Research Enhancement Awards (AREA) are on the Web.

NIAID CANCELS MORE PAs

Since the last newsletter, we have inactivated another eight program announcements (PA). This is in addition to the 18 we inactivated in the fall of 1998.

GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE FOR EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT

Principal investigators can get money for research instruments costing more than \$100,000 to share with other scientists.

GRANTS & policy

The full text for articles in the Grants and Policy section is at <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/nl0199/page2.htm>.

FOR NOW, GRANTEEES CANNOT USE NIH FUNDS FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH

Though the Department of Health and Human Services decided federal funds can be legally used for research of human stem cells derived from fetuses or embryos, NIH recently put the matter on hold.

Even though NIH funds cannot be used for studying stem cells derived from human fetuses or embryos, research involving hematopoietic stem cells is permitted.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT MODULAR GRANTS

Now that NIH has adopted modular budgets for most new and competing grants, investigators will be filling out grant applications differently. Read our article for guidance.

NEW TERMS OF AWARD FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH

For some clinical research grants, NIAID is revamping the terms of award, which are part of the notice of grant award. The mandatory terms help ensure that patients are protected and grantees comply with government regulations by stipulating information NIAID needs before authorizing a clinical trial and by defining reporting requirements.

INSTITUTE ADOPTS NEW POLICY ON THE RELEASE OF PATHOGEN SEQUENCING DATA

Council approved an approach that balances grantees' rights to pursue research goals with the ability of the research community to access new data. Grant awards will not be made before an approved plan is in place and incorporated into the terms of award.

TRAINING
news

The full text for articles in the Training News section is at
<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/nl0199/page3.htm>.

TRAINING STIPENDS RISE

FY 1999 brought a much-needed 25 percent boost in NRSA stipends for both predocs and postdocs. Predocs are now paid \$14,688, with stipends for postdocs ranging from \$26,256 to \$41,268, depending on experience.

CHECK OUT NIH INITIATIVES IN RESEARCH ETHICS

NIH published two new program announcements following up on earlier initiatives in research ethics. Short-term Courses in Research Ethics (T15 awards) supports the development of courses of general study, while the Mentored Scientist Development Award in Research Ethics (K01 awards) trains the next generation of investigators working in that field.

Reminder: NIAID Has Special Receipt Dates for T32 (Training) Applications**Competing**

One receipt: September 10.

Non-Competing

February 1 for T32s with start dates April 1 to September 1. Earlier awards (December 1 to March 1) due two months before the start date.

INSTITUTE
staff

The full text for articles in the Institute and Staff section is at
<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/nl0199/page4.htm>.

STAFF NEWS

We would like to welcome two new senior staff members: Dr. Daniel Rotrosen, director of NIAID's Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Transplantation (DAIT), and Ms. Leslie Fink, director of the Office of Communications and Public Liaison.

PLAN OUTLINES FUTURE BIOTERRORISM RESEARCH

With the administration and Congress committed to preparing for possible bioterrorist attacks, NIAID is slated to play a major role in the government's effort to counter biological threats.

NEW TETRAMER FACILITY IS ONLINE

Now online is NIAID's tetramer facility, created through the AIDS Research and Reference Reagent Program to provide custom synthesis and distribution of soluble MHC I/peptide tetramer reagents that can be used to stain antigen-specific CD8⁺ T cells.

NIAID Council News**Editors**

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NIAID Council News presents perspectives from open sessions of the National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council. It is an administrative publication produced by the NIAID Division of Extramural Activities. A limited number of copies are distributed to grantees, contractors, and others. Contents are in the public domain, and duplication is encouraged.

SPOTLIGHT
infectious diseases

The full text for articles in the Spotlight on Infectious Diseases section is at <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/nl0199/page5.htm>.

This special section features the following articles on infectious diseases:

PIs SEQUENCE CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS GENOME

FOCUS IS SHARPENING ON THE ROLE OF MICROBES AND CHRONIC DISEASES

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS LINK BETWEEN INFECTION AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

NIAID WORKSHOP DEVELOPS BLUEPRINT FOR TB VACCINE DEVELOPMENT

FEATURE
article

The full text for the Feature Article is at <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/nl0199/page6.htm>.

UNDERSTANDING PERCENTILES AND OTHER FUNDING FACTORS

If you are having trouble understanding how NIH determines percentiles, creates paylines, and defines success rates, this article may help. It explores these basic processes, following up on our feature in September, Balancing the Budget in Fiscal Year 1999, which addressed these topics from the perspective of the FY 1999 budget.

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